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*Fall Grain Catalog  
1944 Season*



COKER'S PEDIGREE SEED COMPANY  
HARTSVILLE, S. C.



*"Our experience indicates that the continual use of seed scientifically bred by plant breeders of experience and ability who have the resources to do their work on a large scale, will increase money returns per acre by not less than ten per cent."*

DAVID R. COKER (1870-1938)  
*Founder*

**Coker's Pedigreed Seed Company**

# To Our Customers:

We take pleasure in presenting our 1944 Fall Grain Catalog. In it, you will find descriptions and photographs of our latest developments in oats, wheat and rye. These grains have been bred especially for the cotton belt, and combine those characteristics that enable them to withstand many of the hazards of weather and disease. They will utilize the advantages of soil, fertilizer and climate in the production of remunerative yields of quality grain.

Such varieties as Victorgrain, Fulgrain and Stanton oats, Redhart and Hardired wheat and Abruzzi rye are contributing to the diversified agriculture that we in the South are striving to attain. These varieties suit both our soils and climate and are adapted to machine harvesting. With such grains our farmers are making the maximum contribution to our Government's "Win the War" program.

Fortunately, our breeding material and program is such as not only to insure constant improvement in these established lines but the development of new and still



GEORGE J. WILDS, President and General Manager

better types. Mr. Howard W. Blakeslee accurately and aptly portrays our oat breeding program in an interesting article appearing on pages 3 and 10 of this catalog. Similar programs are under way with both wheat and barley.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Geo. Wilds".

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# OUR PLAN FOR DISTRIBUTING SEED



ROBERT R. COKER, Vice-President  
In Charge of Sales

We do not buy seed for resale, either those grown from seed purchased from us or from any other source whatever. Our business is in originating, breeding, growing and selling superior varieties of field seed for the South, and our seed stocks of new strains of grain are limited to the four or five years increase starting with single outstanding head selections.

For a number of years now the demand for our Pedigreed varieties of small grain has considerably exceeded our supply and it has not been easy for us to work out a plan of distributing seed which would be fair to all. However, we recognize that we are first obligated to our regular cus-

tomers and distributors who have stood by us through the years and we have deliberately refrained from making any effort to dispose of any of our stock of seed until these customers and distributors have had a reasonable opportunity of placing their orders through this catalog.

The plan we have adopted for distributing or allocating our seed stocks is as follows:

1. Seed are allotted to the different parts of our sales territory based on sales history by variety for the past four years.
2. Regular customers, distributors and others are given an opportunity of placing orders through advance descriptive folders or catalog while we still have adequate stocks of seed.
3. Extra consideration is given to customers placing orders early.
4. We reserve the right to reduce orders which are too far out of line with previous purchases if this should be found necessary.

Our customers may be assured that the high standard of quality of Coker products will be strictly maintained in spite of the handicaps of operating under war time conditions.

*Robert R. Coker*

# COKER'S PLANT BREEDING AT HARTSVILLE IMPORTANT TO SOUTHERN AGRICULTURE

By HOWARD W. BLAKESLEE  
Associated Press Science Editor

Hartsville, April 24—Two wars ago Maj. James Lide Coker, a wounded Confederate officer, came here to Hartsville to operate an inherited farm.

Some 30 years later his son, David R. Coker, began in a small way practical test and scientific experiments in plant breeding.

The ideas which grew out of that farm and those experiments are going far today to help relieve the national food and long staple cotton shortages.

The ideas have grown into 5,000 acres, all seed farms, operated by the Major's descendants, the Cokers. These farms, flat emerald fields ringed by groves of tall, dark pines, are doing for Southern agriculture what pedigreed bulls do for livestock production.

Luther Burbank, on hands and knees, used to look at 10,000 plants in his search for the one superior bloom that might start a superior race. Here the Coker people scan 100,000 for every ten that could be detected on hands and knees.

They use the inheritance laws of the monk Gregor Mendel, mathematical charts and a systematic culture which grows a single superior head of oats, wheat, barley or rye in four years to 300 acres, or one superior plant of cotton to 10,000 bushels of seed in four years.

Three years after that the seed could be increased to sow the entire South. Each year new varieties of plants are ready, an endless chain, producing all the time. Tobacco is on the Mendelian chain, and coming up are soy beans, peanuts and hybrid corn.

Soon after Mendel's laws were rediscovered early this century, a six-foot, square-jawed, ruddy faced South Carolinian, a Cornell graduate, George J. Wilds, Jr., went scientific on his job here with the Cokers. He wanted to know why some oats have a frost-like sheen, others none. He cross-bred one with sheen to one without.

Cold killed the experiment. Next year he tried again. He was an amazed young man. He hadn't found the answer to the sheen, but one of the oats which previously had been subject to smut disease, had become resistant. It had acquired that resistance from the mating with the other oat, which possessed resistance.

Young Wilds dropped the sheen and started the present breeding system. He is now president of the Coker's Pedigreed Seed Company, which was conceived and founded by the late David R. Coker, son of the Major.

Oats illustrate how it is done with all plants. You select the best-looking plant in a variety having certain qualities a farmer needs. That oat becomes the papa. It is cross-bred to a mama oat, the latter the best-looking in another variety with still another set of qualities which papa lacks.

Next year you set out a single row, 12 or 14 feet long, never more, of the papa oats. Alongside goes a row of the mama oats. And next to them, row on row, their offspring, the seed from the mating.

The papas and mamas are there just for comparison, or maybe for suspicion that the gardener made a mistake. The little offspring rows do astonishing things. Some grow tall, some scrawny; diseases destroy some, fail to touch others. Almost endless acres of these little plant families intersperse the piney woods region hereabouts.

From the best looking, best producing offspring you select 10 per cent of the plants for seed. Next year all their seed babies are again grown under similar conditions. From those the best 10 per cent are again selected. The system passes through countless thousands of seeds and never fails to produce a superior plant.

(Continued on page 10)

*Reprint of Article Appearing in THE STATE, Columbia, S. C.  
April 24, 1943.*



**1.** Victorgrain Strain 4 has good leaf growth and its high degree of rust resistance adds to its feeding value.



**2.** Showing section of our wheat, oat, and barley variety tests.



**5.** Note striking differences in resistance to adverse conditions.



**6.** Making notes on differences in disease resistance.



**9.** S. C. Farm Security Administration officials show interest in a new forage-type oat which Mr. Wilds points out.



**10.** Note stiff straw and full heads of Victor-grain.



3. A portion of our barley head-to-row main variety test.



4. Dr. T. R. Stanton, Chief Agronomist of U. S. D. A. Oat Investigations, center, inspecting oat smut test with our Mr. R. S. Cathcart, on left, and Mr. George J. Wilds.



7. Note high resistance of Victorgrain Strain 4, center, to new Victorgrain smut. Susceptible Victorgrain strains on left and right.



8. Group of Darlington County Farmers and Dr. R. F. Poole, President of Clemson College, shown fourth from left, inspecting field of Victorgrain oats.



11. Field of Fulgrain Strain 6 oats growing on our Marlboro Farm, Mr. E. C. Baker, Farm Manager, is on right.



12. Dr. H. H. McKinney, Senior Pathologist, U. S. D. A., and Dr. T. R. Stanton, on left and right, with our Mr. Wilds and Dr. C. H. Rogers looking over increase field of one of our new oats.



# *Coker's Pedigreed*

## VICTORGRAIN STRAIN 4 OATS

A NEW, HIGHLY PRODUCTIVE, UNIFORM  
STRAIN RESISTANT TO THE RECENTLY  
DISCOVERED VICTORGRAIN SMUT.

In our new Strain 4 of Coker's Victorgrain Oats we have been able to retain all of the desirable qualities of the earlier strains of this variety and in addition to add resistance to the virulent new race of Victorgrain smut. Strain 4 which is highly productive with resistance to leaf rust and smut, with a sturdy, wiry straw and long well-balanced heads, more nearly approaches our ideal of an oat for the cotton belt than any we have hitherto been able to offer during our 36 years of grain breeding.

Coker's Victorgrain Oat, which was first offered our customers in the fall of 1940, has made an enviable record in the southern oat belt. The hundred of thousands of acres now being planted by satisfied growers from Southern Virginia to Northern Florida and from Tidewater Carolina to the Mississippi Valley and south into Louisiana and Texas—is evidence of its wide adaptability and combination of superior qualities.

### BREEDING HISTORY

In 1933, Victoria, a South American variety, which is a highly smut and rust-resistant oat but having no cold resistance and a heavy awn on the first grain, was crossed on our early, highly productive Fulgrain oat. The object was to breed an oat that combined the rust resistance and extreme smut resistance of Victoria with the cold resistance, earliness, production and desirable grain characters of Fulgrain. After eight years of breeding, selecting and testing and the handling of thousands of head selections and head-to-rows, a striking new oat was evolved combining the best features of each parent without their undesirable characters. This oat we named Victorgrain.

### VICTORGRAIN BEST GENERAL PURPOSE OAT

Victorgrain, in our opinion, is the best general purpose oat that we have so far been able to breed. No effort or expense is spared to correct any weakness that might appear and to strengthen the many desirable characteristics.

**Left:** This photograph of our Victorgrain Oats shows heavy, long, well balanced heads, excellent stooling and stiff, storm-resistant straw of this variety.

We were much disturbed by the appearance of a race of smut to which Victorgrain Strains 1, 2 and 3 were susceptible. Fortunately, this oat was hybrid for resistance to this particular race. Through our extensive breeding program and tests and the cooperation of Dr. George M. Reed, curator of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and a world authority on oat smuts, we have been able to get the smut reaction of a large number of strains of Victorgrain and find a good number that show a very high degree of resistance to this virulent race and also to all other known races. Our breeding program henceforth is confined to those lines having this resistance. Among these is Victorgrain, Strain 4.

### DESCRIPTION

**Plant:** Semi-procumbent—profuse tillering. Cold resistant. Is of medium height, grows about 75% as tall as Red Rust Proof or Appler.

**Smut Resistance:** Resistant to all known races of smut.

**Rust Resistance:** Highly resistant to leaf rust.

**Season:** Week earlier than Red Rust Proof.

**Heads:** Long and well balanced.

**Straw:** Very stiff, storm resistant. Ideal for combining.

**Grains:** Attractive, bright, resisting weather stain, plump, well-filled berry, low per cent hull, high feeding value.

**Production:** The best of any southern variety which we have bred or tested.

**Uniformity:** Excellent.

**PRICES:** 1 to 12 bushels, \$5.00 per bushel.

12 to 48 bushels, \$4.75 per bushel.

Above 48 bushels, \$4.50 per bushel.

These oats treated with Ceresan.

**NOTE:** Although our Victorgrain Strain 4 has shown high resistance to all known races of smut, we are, nevertheless, treating these seed, because of the possibility that there are other races of smut not yet discovered to which the oat may be susceptible and because of the advantages of Ceresan treatment in better, healthier stands and increased yields.



# *Coker's Pedigreed*

RUST RESISTANT

## FULGRAIN STRAIN 6 OATS

AN EARLY MATURING, HIGHLY UNIFORM  
STRAIN WITH EXCELLENT YIELD RECORD.

Fulgrain has earned a high rating among southern oat varieties. This new strain (first offered in fall of 1943) having rust resistance, extra smut and storm resistance coupled with its high yield and early maturity is still further increasing the value of this variety to our Southern agricultural program.

### BEST OF THE FULGRAINS

In Coker's Fulgrain Strain 6, we have been able to virtually eliminate the occasional beards or awns which have been noted in earlier strains. It has made the best yield record of any Fulgrain oat we have ever bred or tested.

### LONG AND WELL BALANCED HEADS

Fulgrain Strain 6 is somewhat taller than Fulgrain Strains 4 and 5 and about 90% as tall as Fulgrain Strain 3. The heads are long and well balanced and the grains are beautiful, plump, heavy and of high feeding value.

### UNIFORM IN TYPE

As a result of the eleven years of selection and testing which have gone into the breeding of this oat, it is remarkably uniform in type and appearance with profuse tillering and has so far shown resistance to all types of smut yet discovered.

Strain 6 is our first strain of Fulgrain oats which compares favorably in yield with Victor-grain and this is, in our opinion, a significant indication of its value.

### DESCRIPTION

**Plant:** Semi-erect with dark green pointed blades; profuse tillering; cold resistant, rust resistant, smut resistant; somewhat taller than Fulgrain Strains 4 and 5.

**Season:** 10 to 12 days earlier than Appler and Red Rust Proof, 2 to 3 days ahead of Fulghum.

**Heads:** Long, well balanced, heavily fruited.

**Straw:** Very stiff, very storm resistant; ideal for combining.

**Grains:** Beautiful, plump, slightly shorter than previous strains; low per cent hull; heavy; high feeding value. Few with awns or beard.

**Left:** Coker's Fulgrain Strain 6 has beautiful plump grains—high in feeding value. It combines early maturity with good straw, a high degree of uniformity and resistance to crown rust.

**Production:** Better production record than parent strain.

**PRICES:** 1 to 12 bushels, \$4.00 per bushel.  
12 to 48 bushels, \$3.75 per bushel.  
Above 48 bushels, \$3.50 per bushel.

These oats treated with Ceresan.

**NOTE:** Although our Fulgrain Strains 4, 5 and 6 have shown high resistance to all known races of smut including the new race to which Victor-grain Strains 1, 2 and 3 are susceptible, we are, nevertheless, treating our Fulgrain Strain 6, because of the possibility that there are other races of smut not yet discovered to which this oat may be susceptible and because of the advantages of Ceresan treatment in better, healthier stands and increased yields.



Row of Fulgrain Strain 6 on left showing high resistance to new Victorgrain smut.

## COKER'S PLANT BREEDING AT HARTSVILLE IMPORTANT TO SOUTHERN AGRICULTURE

(Continued from page 3)

The superiorities are chosen in advance, to fit what will be needed by a community, state or nation. Not merely in bushels, bales and pounds, but also in resistance to diseases, of which there are several hundred strains in the half dozen main crops of the South alone. Further, the breeding provides crops which grow early, or late, or fast or slow, or resist frost. Some, particularly in these days, are bred to furnish rich feed for grazing beef cattle, yet afterward to mature to produce their grains for man.

The possibilities are multitude. This year the Cokers have some oats that grow five to six feet tall. They are only an experiment. The object is to learn whether it would pay to get either a good crop of oats or be able to use for ensilage.

Mendel's laws work both in reverse, and also for diseases as well as good plants. Superior new varieties may deteriorate in a few years. The old diseases mutate into new species. The seed fields have to keep ahead of all these handicaps by breeding to meet them.

There probably would be little or no cotton growing today in all the coastal plains from Virginia to Florida, inclusive, and in some parts of Alabama and Mississippi, had it not been for the breeding of varieties which were resistant to the cotton wilt disease. Some of that work was done here. The Mendelian work is always co-operative, the United States department of agriculture stations everywhere lending a hand.

Wheat is growing this year in Southern fields where it scarcely existed a few years ago, and with yields of national significance. Georgetown county, South Carolina, has increased from two to about 200 wheat growers in eight years. The Mendelian seeds are giving the South many other crops where few or none of the kind were raised before.

A new dream of the Cokers is to make the South one of the world's greatest dairy lands in the very areas where even today children do not get enough milk. Sponsor for this dream is J. F. Clyburn.

He sees the United States having to furnish not only meat to starving nations, but breeding stock to a Europe which is eating its breeders. He and others in this country are at work on breeding programs to be ready for peace.

The old monk's laws make it a certainty that the South can, if she wishes, produce everything needed to cover plains and hills with enough livestock to share in the world demand and to enrich the Southern farmer in health, and probably in pocketbook.



1. The seed for our oat test plots are carefully sorted and measured to insure uniform seeding.



3. The seed are planted by hand and with hand-operated implements.



5. Inspecting oat test rows for varietal hardiness.



...ly weighed for each



2. A piece of land which is level, well drained and uniform is selected and thoroughly prepared.



...vered and rolled by



4. During the growing season weeds are kept down by cultivating and hoeing when necessary.



...ifferences in winter



6. Showing section of our main grain breeding and test field where more than forty thousand individual rows are planted.



# *Coker's Pedigreed*

## STANTON STRAIN 2 OATS

A TALL GROWING, PRODUCTIVE NEW  
STRAIN SUITED FOR GRAIN,  
HAY OR FORAGE.

Coker's Stanton Oat is a desirable variety for grain, hay or green feed. It is of medium late maturity and is highly resistant to cold and leaf rust. It combines a number of features which appeal to livestock feeders and dairymen. It grows rather tall and makes a profuse leaf growth which provides more green feed, more hay or a greater tonnage of ensilage per acre.

Coker's Stanton Strain 2, which is a reselection from Strain 1, is more uniform and productive than its parent.

### CLEANER GRAIN AND RUST-FREE FORAGE

Stanton is a heavy yielder of grain as well as hay and its resistance to rust helps produce bigger yields of grain and rust-free forage. An oat which produces plenty of straw, as well as good yields of grain, is also desirable, as livestock feeders have a use for their oat straw for bedding and litter and to produce abundant manure. This variety has long, well balanced heads and an attractive yellow grain.

### WELL SUITED FOR PIEDMONT PLANTING

Coker's Stanton Oats are showing up especially well in Piedmont areas of North and South Carolina and Georgia. Its cold resistance and extra vigor enable it to make a satisfactory winter growth under the exacting weather and soil conditions of this area and its stiff straw and uniform ripening make it suited for combine harvesting.

Stanton has shown the highest degree of resistance to all smuts except the new Victorgrain race, to which it is highly susceptible. For this reason, all planting seed of this variety grown by our customers should by all means be treated for smut control prior to planting.

### DESCRIPTION

**Plant:** Procumbent, winter type, profuse tillering, long fine blades, cold resistant, rust resistant, slightly taller than Fulgrain, Strain 3.

**Season:** A week later than Victorgrain; same as Red Rust Proof.

**Heads:** Very long, well balanced.

Coker's Stanton Oat grows rather tall, makes a profuse leaf growth as well as good yields of grain, and combines cold and leaf rust resistance.

**Grains:** Bright to rich yellow, attractive, a few with awns or beard.

**Production:** Better than parent strain.

**Utility:** Ideal for grain and its profuse leaf growth, tillering, height, and rust resistance make it also an ideal oat for either hay or silage.

**PRICES:** 1 to 12 bushels, \$5.00 per bushel.

12 to 48 bushels, \$4.75 per bushel.

Above 48 bushels, \$4.50 per bushel.

These oats treated with Ceresan.





# *Coker's Pedigreed*

## HARDIRED STRAIN 4 WHEAT

### AN IMPROVED STRAIN WIDELY ADAPTED FOR THE COTTON BELT.

Coker's Hardired Wheat Strain 4 is our newest and best strain of the Hardired Variety first offered our customers in the fall of 1940.

Hardired Strain 4 is of medium early maturity, ripening about a week later than Redhart Strains and about one week earlier than Leap's Prolific, Forward and Fulcaster. The heads are long, square and well-filled with grain of high milling value.

It has considerable cold resistance, is resistant to the early types of rust and to most races of mildew. (See important note at bottom of page.)

Hardired wheat stools (tillers) profusely and consequently, less seed per acre is needed than with most other varieties. Heavier seedings sometime result in shorter heads and smaller, weaker straw.

This wheat grows somewhat taller than Redhart, and consequently, its storm resistance is not as great. Although we have never suffered any loss of this variety on our farms from lodging, we do not recommend it for planting on heaviest types of soil, high in organic matter or nitrogen content.

#### EXCELLENT VARIETY TEST RECORD

Strain 4 which has been widely tested by experiment stations throughout the South under our breeding number, Coker's Hardired 42-8, led all commercial varieties in the 1943 North Carolina Uniform Wheat Variety Tests. It ranked second in the 1943 Clemson College Test, stood near the top in test at Pee Dee Experiment Station, Florence, S. C., and led all commercial strains at Edisto Experiment Station, Blackville, S. C.

In the 1940 Variety Test at the Delta Branch Experiment Station, Stoneville, Mississippi, Hardired led all varieties with a yield of 41 bushels per acre. In the 1941 South Carolina Three-Acre Wheat Contest, Hardired made the highest yield record of any variety planted, with an average yield of 33.56 bushels and winning both the first and second state prizes with a yield of 56.5 and 55.73 bushels per acre respectively.

The following significant quotation is from Clemson College Circular No. 199 reporting on 1941 Wheat Contest: "The 1941 Wheat Contest has proved conclusively that wheat can be produced profitably in all sections of South Carolina. With the introduction of disease-resistant varieties of wheat, the farmers in the Coastal Plains Area as well as in the Piedmont are now able to produce profitable yields per acre."

We have received good reports from most of the Southeastern States on this variety which gives an indication of its wide adaptability and satisfactory performance under varying conditions.

#### DESCRIPTION

**Plant:** Winter type, profuse tillering, cold resistant, mildew resistant (see note at bottom of page); high tolerance to leaf rust.

**Season:** Medium, week to ten days later than Redhart Strain 5. About one week earlier than Leap's Prolific, Forward and Fulcaster.

**Heads:** Long, square, well filled.

**Straw:** Good, enabling ease of harvest with minimum loss.

**Grains:** Very similar to Redhart; high milling value.

**Production:** Highest.

**PRICES:** 1 to 12 bushels, \$6.00 per bushel.  
12 to 48 bushels, \$5.75 per bushel.  
Above 48 bushels, \$5.50 per bushel.

**NOTE:** For the first time since we introduced our Hardired Wheat four years ago, we have discovered mildew damage in certain of our increase fields. Because of the high degree of resistance to mildew which this variety heretofore has shown, we are convinced that this is a new race. We believe that Hardired will continue to show resistance to the type of mildew against which it has been bred and will suffer loss only when attacked by this newly discovered race or others yet to be discovered.

**Left:** Photo on our Marlboro Farm shows heavy, well-filled heads and productiveness of our Hardired Strain 4 wheat.



# *Coker's Pedigreed*

## REDHART STRAIN 5 WHEAT

A VARIETY WITH STIFF STRAW, EXTRA EARLY MATURITY  
AND HIGH PRODUCTION.

Due to an insistent demand by a number of our customers who are partial to Redhart wheat because of its dependable production, extra earliness and wide adaptability, we have increased and are again offering our Redhart Strain 5.

### FOURTH IMPROVEMENT ON ORIGINAL STRAIN

Redhart Strain 5 is our fourth improvement on the original Redhart strain of wheat first offered by our Company 23 years ago. It is very similar both in type and appearance to Redhart Strain 4 from which it came but has made a better yield record and has shown a higher degree of uniformity. It is a week earlier than Strain 1, from two to three weeks earlier than Forward, Leap's Prolific and Fulcaster, and a week earlier than Blue Stem and Gasta.

### HEADS ERECT, COMPACT AND BEARDLESS

Redhart Strain 5 has a strong, stiff straw and stands up well under unfavorable weather con-

Photo on left shows a field of our Redhart Strain 5 Wheat. This variety has stiff straw, extra early maturity and high production.

ditions. The heads stand erect, are beardless and square with four full rows of grain. The glumes fit snugly over the grains and reduce loss from shattering.

The plant is erect in type, broad leafed, good stooling and medium dwarf in height. The grains are plump and of high milling value.

### DESCRIPTION

**Plant:** Erect in type, broad leafed, good stooling, 3 inches shorter than Redhart Strain 1.

**Straw:** Stiff, storm resistant.

**Heads:** Beardless, erect, square with 4 full rows of grain, cream to yellow glumes that fit snugly over grains, and reduce loss from shattering.

**Yield:** Best of the Redhart strains.

**Season:** Very early (a week earlier than Redhart Strain 1, escaping much rust injury).

**Grains:** Plump, horny, high gluten content, high milling value.

**PRICES:** 1 to 12 bushels, \$4.50 per bushel.

12 to 48 bushels, \$4.25 per bushel.

Above 48 bushels, \$4.00 per bushel.

# *Coker's Pedigreed*

## ABRUZZI STRAIN 18 RYE

A NEW STRAIN OF THE SOUTH'S LEADING VARIETY  
SUITED FOR GRAIN, GRAZING AND COVER CROP.

Abruzzi or Italian Rye was discovered by agents of the United States Department of Agriculture, while on an exploration trip through Italy in search of valuable plants for use in this country, and was introduced for the first time about January, 1900.

This rye was tested by the United States Department of Agriculture, found to be valuable, and was distributed about 1906, but was lost sight of until improved and introduced again as "Coker's Pedigreed" Abruzzi Rye in the fall of 1913.

### THIRTY-FOUR YEARS OF RYE BREEDING

Coker's Pedigreed Abruzzi rye is descended from two plants which were selected in a field of this general Abruzzi rye in the spring of 1909 and it showed marked superiority to the parent strain. For 34 years we have been breeding this variety, selecting always for squareness, length and diameter of head, size, shape and color of grain. Selecting also for earliness, erectness of growth and width of blade, we have developed

higher yielding strains with better grazing value and storm resistance.

Coker's Pedigreed Abruzzi Rye Strain 18 is a remarkably uniform strain with good production record suited for grain, grazing and cover crop.

### DESCRIPTION

**Plant:** Strong, vigorous, erect in type, broad blades, rapid grower.

**Grain:** Large, plump, of good color and type.

**Heads:** Large, long, square, excellent filling qualities.

**Season:** Early.

**Straw:** Best. Greater than any previous strain of Abruzzi, and 10% to 50% more productive than other varieties against which it has been tested.

**PRICES:** 1 to 12 bushels, \$5.00 per bushel.

12 to 48 bushels, \$4.75 per bushel.

Above 48 bushels, \$4.50 per bushel.

# SUGGESTIONS ON GROWING CERTIFIED OATS

By R. S. ENTZMINGER

On a two thousand mile trip through the southeastern states as far west as the Mississippi and Arkansas delta as the harvesting of oats was in full swing, I was amazed that so many otherwise beautiful fields of grain were unsightly because of the appearance of volunteer plants of rye, wheat, Johnson grass, vetch, and two of the noxious grasses—chess and darnel—commonly called “cheat.”

Many states have organized crop improvement associations which certify varieties and crops that meet their requirements of varietal purity, freeness from mixture such as those named above,

and these certified seed sell more readily and command a higher price than uncertified seed of the same variety.

Some growers of approved varieties have had their crops refused certification; when a little precaution and a few hours of extra work would have corrected the trouble in most cases.

There are some basic principles which go far toward helping the conscientious planter to produce the kind of seed that can be readily certified. We are therefore offering some suggestions and information to our customers and friends with the hope that they will be helpful in the growing of their crops of oats and other small grain, especially if it is to be approved for certification. These are somewhat the same methods we use in maintaining the purity of our pedigreed strains while increasing them over a period of four or five years before they are offered for sale.

1. Plant your oats or wheat on land you know to be free of noxious weeds, foreign seed or volunteer grain.

2. Never plant on land which was planted to grain the previous year. Intensive cultivation of row crops such as beans or peas planted on stubble will not prevent seed from germinating and showing up as volunteer plants if the land is seeded to grain the following season. Also, low lands planted to row crops are usually infested with noxious weeds and should not be planted in oats for certification.

3. Never scatter rough stable manure or compost on fields you expect to plant to any of the small grain. Seed will go through work stock or grazing animals and come up as volunteers in such fields.

4. Be sure every seed is removed from the grain drill before going into the field to plant. A handful of seed left in a grain drill will spoil the appearance of an entire plot of grain.

5. In all sections where small grains are grown seed will be scattered by birds or others means to the adjoining fields in that vicinity, and volunteer plants will result. Volunteer plants are those which were not planted by the grain drill and appear at random **BETWEEN THE GRAIN**.



This black oat and a similar white oat are very winter hardy and persist where many other varieties are winter killed. They are a source of much trouble in growing pure seed oats, but grow tall and can be easily seen and removed from fields with little effort or expense.

ROWS. If the plants are not exactly in the grain row you are safe in assuming they are volunteer plants.

6. Hard seed in vetch often germinate the second year and furnish a troublesome source of mixture. Small grain growers must recognize this fact and plan their cropping system so as to avoid this as far as possible.

In the Mississippi and Arkansas delta where Red Rust Proof varieties predominated for many years, tall black and white oats (see picture) also two varieties of the cheat family, commonly known as chess and darnel, (see picture) appear, not only in grain fields but on untilled low lands, ditch banks, roadsides and railroad right-of-ways. These tall oats and "cheats" are the source of much trouble and annoyance. The seed are carried by birds or dragged into the fields by plow tools or other farm machinery and come up in the grain as volunteers. The tall black and white oats are very hardy and survive extremely cold and wet weather much better than the varieties of grain now being planted. Chess and darnel not only do not freeze or drown out, but are very prolific and produce thousands of seed from a single grain.

In all strains of small grain, occasional hybrids or off-type plants will show up. Our method is to check our increase fields each year and remove all such plants, whether volunteers, hybrids, or off-type. This operation costs from twenty-five cents to a couple of dollars per acre, but it changes the otherwise ragged and irregular appearance of a field into one that is good to look at.

We plant most of our grain behind cotton, therefore the volunteer problem is not so great as when following other row crops.

Fulgrain and Victorgrain oats are earlier and have a somewhat shorter and stiffer straw than other varieties and because of short straw are ideally adapted to harvesting with combines. Among these short oats the volunteer plants, which are usually tall, can be seen more readily than in the taller varieties; therefore it is a relatively easy matter to rogue them out ahead of the combine. In the talled varieties the volunteers are not so noticeable.

Again we urge you to check your fields and rogue out all tall and off-type plants



Plants to left are Chess. Those to right are Darnel. These two members of the "Cheat" family survive on lands where oats and wheat either freeze or drown out. They are very prolific, producing thousands of grains from a single seed and are spread by birds, wind, or stock, from railroad right-of-ways, ditch banks, roadsides, and infested fields. Chess and Darnel can be eliminated only by intensive cultivation when planted in cotton or other clean row crops.

of oats, volunteer plants of wheat, rye, as well as all chess and darnel; and last but not least be sure to clean your combine thoroughly by taking out the shaker and removing every grain from the cracks and crevices before you begin harvesting.

Carelessly cleaned grain drills, combines, threshing machines, and cleaning equipment, as well as volunteer plants are the chief cause of the fields of mixed grain we see all over the southern grain belt.

In U. S. D. A. Bulletin No. 562, Dr. T. R. Stanton, agronomist in charge of oat investigation, points out that the volunteer problem is a big one in the south where volunteer oats are not destroyed by freezing. We suggest you obtain one of these bulletins by writing the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington. D. C.

## BUSINESS TERMS

**OUR RESPONSIBILITY:** Our seed are all carefully tested for germination and purity before shipment. Attached to every bag of seed we ship is a card on which is printed the percentage of germination and mechanical purity of that particular lot of seed. Under no circumstances, however, can we be responsible for the germination of the seed after they have been planted for there are many reasons for imperfect germination of planted seeds other than their vitality. In no case, do we give any warranty expressed or implied as to the productivity or performance of our seed.

**OUR CLAIMS:** The claims we make for our seed are based on their actual performance in our breeding plots, variety tests and increase fields. They are ALL bred, grown, prepared, tested and stored under our personal supervision and control.

**NO SEED BOUGHT:** We do not buy seed for resale, either those grown from seed purchased from us or from any other source whatever. Our business is in originating, breeding, growing and selling superior varieties of field seed for the South. However, we are always glad to assist our customers in disposing of their surplus "first year from Coker" seed by referring inquiries to them whenever possible.

**ONE PRICE POLICY:** Our Company has, since its beginning, strictly adhered to the policy of selling its products on one schedule of prices to all. These prices are based on the quantity of the purchase and are published in our catalogs, price lists and pamphlets.

**YOUR PROTECTION:** Our seed are all sent out in bags labeled "COKER'S PEDIGREED SEED" and bearing our Registered Red Heart Trade Mark. Each bag also bears our O. K. tag and is officially sealed before leaving our warehouse. No seed is genuine "COKER'S PEDIGREED SEED" unless it bears our official O. K. TAG under seal and our Registered "TRADE MARK." Protect yourself by insisting upon having only seed bearing our official O. K. tag and Registered Trade Mark.

**EFFECT OF GROWING CONDITIONS:** Our descriptions are based on the actual records that our varieties have produced in our tests, and they will show the same characteristics elsewhere under the same conditions. Drought or POOR CONDITIONS will result in a reduced yield and poorer quality—no matter what variety is planted.

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No. Bushels	Variety	Price Per Bushel			Amount
		1-12 Bu.	12-48 Bu.	Above 48 Bu.	
	*COKER'S VICTORGRAIN OATS Strain 4	\$5.00	\$4.75	\$4.50	
	COKER'S FULGRAIN OATS Strain 6	4.00	3.75	3.50	
	*COKER'S STANTON OATS Strain 2	5.00	4.75	4.50	
	*COKER'S HARDIRED WHEAT Strain 4	6.00	5.75	5.50	
	COKER'S REDHART WHEAT Strain 5	4.50	4.25	4.00	
	*COKER'S ABRUZZI RYE Strain 18	5.00	4.75	4.50	

All oats bagged in even weight four bushel bags; all wheat and rye in two bushel bags. Prices F. O. B. Hartsville, S. C., and Memphis, Tenn. All shipments made direct from Hartsville.

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